Vacaville, Calif., ~~Jan.31~~ Feb. 1, 1940

Dear Marion:

Your note of request relative to the strike situation in 1932 came this morning. The following Sunday after the mass meeting the church was filled with the men of the community who came to show their appreciation of what I had done for them. That morning they listened to my regular sermon which had nothing to do with the situation. Nor did I make any remarks in church relative to it except to say laughingly, "Well, what has come over the men of Vacaville that they should all come to church?" The statement that you quoted as one I made in church; "There is'nt a red-blooded man in this church; you're all yellow", is a pure fabrication that was published in some of the S.F. papers. I conducted a regular orderly church service thruout that hour of worship.

You asked me to tell you what I said at the mass meeting. Before doing so let me describe the situation as I saw it then. A group of growers and merchants came to me and told me their troubles. They told me of the threats that had been made to enter the stores and take supplies for the strikers by force; and of the threats that certain ones were to be "gotten" good and plenty. They were actually afraid of their very lives. They asked me if I would speak at the mass-meeting and try to bring some order out of the chaos, for the situation had reached the unbearable point. The ~~rumors~~ rumors I had heard going around town and the reported actions of both strikers and farmers confirmed the statements made to me by the group that came to see me. It was also at a time when our farmers were not getting anything to speak of for their crops, most of whom could'nt even pay the taxes on their places, much less the heavy interest on their mortgages. The farmers were down and almost out, many of them shortly after lost all they had. I have before me my original notes from which I made my mass-meeting talk. From these notes I shall endeavor to reconstruct the address that I made. But before I do so let me add that when the time came for the mass meeting to be held not a man dared to act as chairman, the one appointed not showing up, and so they asked me to take charge of the meeting. Besides my talk a lawyer from Winters(I forget his name) also spoke, and he went altogether too far and talked about lynching, etc. After he finished I told the people that such a procedure was not necessary and that such a course would only make matters much worse. And one more thing let me add. The men who organized to run out of town the Red leaders kept mum, at least to me, and when they did run them out and the news of their act came to me, I was the most surprised person you ever saw. The gist of my speech was as follows:

Fellow Citizens of Vacaville, I come before you as a plain citizen of this community, having lived here for over eighteen years and having raised my family here. I have always stood for peace and respect for one another's rights and priveleges gyaranteed us by our consitution. I have never told our Trustees how to run the town, nor any merchant how to run his business, nor any grower or farmer how to handle his produce. I have always stood for the welfare and security of the entire community.

The American people are very good-natured and put up with a whole lot before they are aroused. We have put up with a situation here beyond which we can no longer tolerate. Our community aims to protect its members against every menace to their property and lives. In case of fire, the

community calls out its fire department. In case of epidemic or disaster, the Red Cross steps in to help. We are now being threatened with a menace of threatened destruction to our property and of threat against our very lives.

I have nothing to say about the disagreement between the growers and the workers. But I have something to say about the threats of the communists in our midst who have stirred up this whole trouble. They boast of being connected with the great communist organization of the world and their purpose is to overturn our government and our institutions. They dare to go just as far as the good-nature of the American people will let them. To the communist leaders who have come here from the outside to stir up this trouble, we are here to say to them, "Thus far have you gone but you can go no further. Before our situation is permitted to develop into tragedy we should crystalize our public opinion to the point of getting rid of our trouble-makers, peacably if possible, but get rid of them we must and will.

Unfortunately we can secure no government or state aid until something happens. Since this is the case, it is up to this community to protect itself. In the early days of California before law and order was established Vigilance Committees took measures into their own hands in order to curb the lawless. I hope such a drastic method will not have to be resorted to now; but I believe that we have enough red-blooded citizens here in Vacaville to get rid of thses trouble-makers and end their threats to our peace and security. Let the troble-makers who have come in from the outside take warning. Our patience is exhausted; this thing which threatens our lives and liberties must stop- and stop it will!

And now a few words to our striking workers. Most of you are citizens of this community and many of you have lived here for many years. You are just as much a part of this community as the rest of us. During your residence here you have earned your living and traded with our merchants; you have deposited your money in our banks and carried on your checking accounts thru them. Many of our merchants extended to you long credits, willing to wait for their pay for your supplies until you earned your money. During the War and the prosperous period afterwards many of you earned as high as four and five dollars a day, and some of you by piece-work earned considerably more. And now that the farmers and growers can get nothing for their crops and are heavily in debt, going in the red year after year, you strike for higher wages. I ask you, is that good citizenship and is that fair treatment on your part to strike for higher wages at a time like this? You think that these communist leaders who have persuaded you to strike are your friends. They are not. The merchants and the growers and the banks and who have made it possible for you to live here during these many years are your real friends. Your communist leaders, after their purpose is accomplished, will desert you like rats. We, your fellow citizens, are your true friends. Choose you this day whom you will serve- this community which has housed you and fed you and educated your children and mended you when you were sick, or these outside trouble-makers who would but use you for their catspaws to destroy the very source of your security and welfare.

So much for my speech. The strikers under the direction of their Red leaders planned a big parade for the following Sunday afternoon. Such a demonstration had been forbidden by an act of the town fathers. The parade came down Main Street displaying threatening signs; the leaders were arrested, and you know what followed. So that is truthfully and as nearly exact in detail as I remember it.

Read.